DAREDEVIL®: YELLOW

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BOOK SIX: THE FINAL BELL

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Dear Karen,
This is the last time I will be writing to you.

Ever since I began this journey into my... our past, I have never felt closer to you.

And I think...

...maybe...

...it's time to let go...

"...WITH A RAPID SUCCESSION OF HARD-FOUGHT PUNCHES REMINISCENT OF A GREAT HEAVYWEIGHT FIGHTER, **DAREDEVIL** KNOCKED OUT **THE MATADOR**, STOPPING YET ANOTHER SO-CALLED 'SUPER-VILLAIN.'

"NEW YORK CITY HAS A **NEW** FAVORITE SON WHOSE ONE-MAN WAR ON CRIME HAS, IN THIS REPORTER'S OPINION..."

DAILY BUGLE
MATADOR NO MORE

TS 2001

Book Six:

You named me "The Man Without Fear" and I'm beginning to realize that my greatest Fear...

...is living in a world without you.

"...EARNED THIS BRIGHT YOUNG HERO THE HONOR OF THE KEY TO THE CITY AS A **REWARD** FOR HIS BATTLES."

MISTER MURDOCK, IS THAT WHY YOU THINK HE DOES WHAT HE DOES?

IS THAT WHY I THINK WHO DOES WHAT, KAREN?

WHY, ***DAREDEVIL***, OF COURSE. THIS REPORTER...

...MISTER...UM... ***BEN URICH*** SEEMS TO FEEL DAREDEVIL SHOULD GET SOME SORT OF ***REWARD*** AND I WONDER IF HE EVEN ***WANTS*** ANY KIND OF REWARD.

RING! RING!

YOU'RE THE ONE WHO IS SOMETHING OF THE ***EXPERT*** ON THIS DAREDEVIL PERSON.

AFTER ALL, YOU'RE THE ***ONLY*** ONE OF US TO HAVE ACTUALLY MET HIM.

UM... HELL-O, PEOPLE?

HEY!

ISN'T ***ANYONE*** GOING TO ANSWER THE PHONE?!

RING!

RING!

OH, FOR THE LOVE OF --

NELSON AND MURDOCK. HOW CAN WE HELP YOU?

DID THEY REALLY CALL HIM A *"BRIGHT YOUNG HERO"*?

I NEVER THOUGHT OF HIM AS *"YOUNG."*

NOW, *SPIDER-MAN. HE* SEEMS YOUNG TO ME.

WHAT?! C'MON, JUDGE, THERE *MUST* BE SOME OTHER LAW FIRM WHO CAN HANDLE...

YOU'RE JUST *JEALOUS* OF HIM, AREN'T YOU, MISTER MURDOCK?

NOW, KAREN...

DON'T DENY IT. EVERY TIME I BRING HIM UP, YOU HAVE SOME SORT OF SMART-ALECK REMARK --

WHAT HAS THE CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM TURNED INTO?!

WE AGREED TO PRACTICE *LAW* --

-- AND *NOT* BE TURNED INTO *CARNIVAL BARKERS* FOR...

JUDGE FLANDERS HAS APPARENTLY MADE US THE COURT APPOINTED ATTORNEYS FOR A *MISTER KILLGRAVE* --

WHY IS MISTER NELSON SO UPSET..?

Foggy wasn't upset about The Purple Man or the Firm or the criminal justice system.

There were two men in that office and they were both in love with the same woman.

He knew it. I knew it. And what made it worse was that we both realized it could only end one way.

-- WHO ALSO GOES BY THE NAME *THE PURPLE MAN.*

AND HOW WOULD YOU KNOW *THAT?*

OH, *NEVER MIND,* YOU JUST *DO.*

JUST LIKE YOU DO WHATEVER THE *HELL* ELSE YOU WANT TO DO *ALL THE TIME!*

MISTER NELSON!

I GUESS I'LL HEAD OVER TO THE COURTHOUSE AND FIND OUT WHAT THIS IS ALL ABOUT.

CAN I COME, TOO..?

WHAT --?!

KAREN, YOU'VE NEVER SHOWN THE SLIGHTEST INTEREST IN GOING INTO COURT!

IT'S LIKE YOU ALWAYS SAY, MISTER NELSON. *"THERE'S A FIRST TIME FOR EVERYTHING."*

I'VE NEVER SAID THAT IN MY LIFE.

AND IT'S "FOGGY," NOT "MISTER NELSON"!

CAN I ASK YOU A QUESTION, MISTER MURDOCK?

Why did you have to be so damn lovable, Karen?

YOU DON'T HAVE TO *ASK* IF YOU CAN ASK A QUESTION, KAREN. YOU CAN JUST ASK IT.

WHY DO YOU THINK HE WEARS A MASK?

THAT'S *ENOUGH* DAREDEVIL FOR TODAY, KAREN.

WE'RE NOT BACK IN THE OFFICE. WE'RE HERE TO LOOK AFTER THE INTERESTS OF OUR *CLIENT.*

YOU DON'T THINK HE HAS SOMETHING TO HIDE, DO YOU? PEOPLE WHO WEAR MASKS OFTEN HAVE SOMETHING TO HIDE. I WONDER WHAT HE'S HIDING?

I HAVEN'T THE SLIGHTEST IDEA.

MISTER KILLGRAVE, I'M MATT MURDOCK AND THIS IS MY ASSOCIATE, *KAREN PAGE.*

THE COURT HAS APPOINTED MY FIRM AS YOUR LEGAL COUNSEL.

THERE'S BEEN A MISTAKE, MISTER MURDOCK. I *WON'T* BE NEEDING A LAWYER.

YOU'LL... BE REPRESENTING YOURSELF THEN?

NO. I WON'T BE STAYING IN JAIL ANY LONGER. GUARD!

THERE'S NO NEED FOR ME TO BE LOCKED UP AND YOU WILL LET ME OUT OF HERE.

THERE'S NO NEED FOR YOU TO BE LOCKED UP AND I WILL LET YOU OUT OF HERE.

MISTER MURDOCK. I DO APPRECIATE YOU BRINGING ME SOME *FEMALE COMPANIONSHIP.*

LET'S GO, KAREN.

OH, AND GUARD, LOCK HIM UP.

BONK

It didn't take long to figure out that somehow The Purple Man could control people with his...aura.

One of the few times being blind and, more specifically, color blind, came in handy.

AH, KAREN. IT'S A LOVELY AFTERNOON. WE SHOULD GET A HOTEL ROOM SOMEWHERE, OPEN UP A BOTTLE OF CHAMPAGNE AND TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THE SITUATION.

I'VE HEARD THE SUITES AT THE PLAZA ARE VERY NICE.

HA! I WAS *JUST* THINKING THAT, YOU LITTLE MINX.

POLICE

LET THE GIRL GO.

HMMM...

NO.

I THINK THAT THESE POLICE OFFICERS SHOULD SHOOT YOU INSTEAD.

FAP

SO MUCH FOR BEING THIS CITY'S FAVORITE SON...

BLAM!

TOK

BLAM!

TOK

TOK

TOK

I remember my Dad talking about how, in a single moment, the crowd could turn against you.

It could be a little thing, like a low blow or a bad call by the ref.

HUH --?

WHAT JUST --?

HEY, HORNHEAD! WHAT'S THE RUSH?

HOW ABOUT AN AUTOGRAPH?

Suddenly, they were hoping you'd get knocked down -- that you would fail.

How many times did I fail you, Karen?

In the end, it was only the last time that mattered...

I fought a lot of foes through the years.

I'VE ORDERED UP SOME ROOM SERVICE, KAREN.

WHY DON'T YOU SLIP INTO SOMETHING MORE COMFORTABLE --

-- AND WE CAN PLAY WITH THE PURPLE MAN.

Doctor Doom. Kingpin. Bullseye.

Bullseye.

THAT'S IT, BABY. NICE AND --

KNOCK KNOCK

WHY IS IT THAT ROOM SERVICE *NEVER* SHOWS UP WHEN YOU *WANT* IT?

They wanted world domination. To run criminal empires. Sought revenge.

YOU MIGHT WANT TO COVER UP, LUV, WHILE I TIP THE --

All Killgrave wanted was... you. And somehow that seemed much, much worse.

HERE COMES DAREDEVIL!

"The man without Fear," right, Karen?

WHAM!

BDIF!

KAREN.

BE A GOOD GIRL...

...AND JUMP OUT THE WINDOW FOR ME.

NO!

Looking back on it... I should have seen this coming.

How many times was I given the choice of saving the girl...

...or stopping the bad guy..?

KAREN.

WE HAVE TO STOP MEETING LIKE THIS.

IT -- IT WAS LIKE HE WAS IN MY HEAD.

I KNOW. IT'S OVER NOW.

ARE YOU ALWAYS GOING TO BE THERE TO SAVE ME?

CAN I ASK YOU A QUESTION?

YOU DON'T HAVE TO *ASK* IF YOU CAN ASK A QUESTION, KAREN --

-- I CAN JUST...ASK IT. SOMEONE SAID THE *EXACT* SAME THING THIS MORNING...

HOTELS

Did you know, right then, Karen? That my heart was beating as fast as yours? That if I could, I would have held you there for the rest of my life?

WHY DO YOU WEAR YELLOW?

WHY DO I WEAR YELLOW?

WELL, I WAS JUST THINKING IF YOU'RE GOING TO BE A *DEVIL*, WOULDN'T *RED* BE MORE APPROPRIATE?

DO YOU LIKE RED, KAREN?

IT'S MY FAVORITE COLOR...

UM...DO YOU THINK IT WOULD BE THE WORST IDEA IN THE WORLD IF WE GOT TOGETHER WHEN I'M NOT BEING *KIDNAPPED* OR *HELD HOSTAGE*?

GOT TOGETHER..?

MAYBE...IF YOU'RE NOT *BUSY*, WE COULD MEET ON THE OBSERVATION DECK OF THE EMPIRE STATE BUILDING?

ARE YOU ASKING ME OUT ON A DATE?

HOW ABOUT TOMORROW NIGHT AT EIGHT O'CLOCK?

OKAY, KAREN, I'LL BE THERE. AND WE'LL PAINT THE TOWN *RED*...

TALK ABOUT YOUR BAD TIMING...

HEY, ALL YOU LUCKY PEOPLE! KILL DAREDEVIL FOR ME —

FWIP

SNAG

FLOOP!

POW!

KEEP HIM COVERED UP, OFFICER, AND I DON'T THINK HE'LL GIVE YOU ANY MORE —

KAREN! KAREN!

TAKE GOOD CARE OF THIS GAL, FOGGY.

"FOGGY..?"

SHE'S ONE IN A MILLION.

HOW DID YOU..?

LET'S GET YOU HOME, KAREN. YOU'VE HAD MORE THAN A LITTLE EXCITEMENT FOR ONE DAY --

-- AND I'M SURE MATT IS *VERY* WORRIED ABOUT YOU.

HE PHONED ME FROM THE COURTHOUSE WITH A WILD STORY ABOUT YOU AND *THE PURPLE MAN* HEADING HERE AND...

KAREN..?

NELSON & MURDOCK
ATTORNEYS AT LAW

The following morning, I could tell from Foggy's heartbeat that it was all coming to a head.

If Nelson and Murdock was going to keep its doors open, something had to be done about you, Karen.

We should've known that if something was going to be done about you, you would be doing the doing. Not us.

LISTEN, PAL. I *TRIED* TO HATE YOU. I REALLY DID.

I WAS GONNA BUST YOU RIGHT IN THE NOSE AS HARD AS I COULD.

FOGGY...

BUT, YOU KNOW WHAT? I COULDN'T DO IT. NO, SIR. I COULDN'T.

AND IT'S NOT BECAUSE YOU'RE *BLIND. THAT* WOULDN'T HAVE STOPPED ME.

BUT, ALL WE'VE BEEN THROUGH AND ALL WE'RE *GOING* TO GO THROUGH, IT'S JUST NOT WORTH IT --

-- TO *ME,* AT LEAST.

SO... YOU CAN HAVE HER.

FOGGY, WHAT *ARE* YOU TALKING ABOUT?

KAREN.

KAREN?

KAREN.

K.

A.

R.

E.

N.

SHE'S ALL YOURS. I WISH YOU THE BEST OF LUCK AND I HOPE --

NELSON AND MURDOCK ATTORNEYS AT LAW

GOOD MORNING, MATT.

GOOD MORNING, FOGGY.

WHAT HAPPENED TO *"MISTER MURDOCK"* AND *"MISTER NELSON"?*

KAREN, ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?

HMM..?

OH, OF COURSE. I'M FINE, MATT. WILL YOU BE NEEDING ME LATE TONIGHT?

PRIV

UM. NO. PROBABLY NOT.

WHY? DO YOU HAVE *PLANS* THIS EVENING, *MISS PAGE?*

ACTUALLY, I *DO.*

MISTER DAREDEVIL, HIMSELF, IS GOING TO SHOW ME THE CITY.

"PAINT THE TOWN RED." I BELIEVE WERE HIS *EXACT* WORDS.

NOW, DON'T YOU BOYS HAVE SOME WORK TO DO? WE'VE GOT BILLS TO PAY AROUND HERE.

AFTER YOU, *MISTER* MURDOCK.

NO, AFTER *YOU,* MISTER NELSON.

PRIVATE

KLIK!

The rest of the story you know too well.

It's been told a lot of ways, with many other people in my life, but this is the way I choose to remember it when I think of you.

Foggy never found love. You found out that Daredevil and Matt Murdock were one and the same.

And now...

And now you are dead.

When I began writing to you, I felt as if I had lost something.

But, in the end, I think... I'd like to think that I found something.

Forgiveness.

All this time I... I don't think I ever forgave myself for what happened to you.

How I've carried around inside me the guilt of knowing that if you hadn't walked into our offices that day, looking for a job -

-- you might be alive today.

And I've thought a lot about my Dad.

All he ever wanted was to make sure I didn't grow up to be an "uneducated pug" like he saw himself.

He made his living with his fists and he called "Fogwell's Gym" his home away from home.

The gym offered not only my father, but also everyone who walked through that door, a chance to make something of themselves.

GYM

SIGNS

ICE

I bought the old place and fixed it up. We got Melvin Potter to run it for us. He used to be The Gladiator, but life gave him a second chance.

I finally found a way I could honor my father beyond wearing his colors...

Do you know how some people say "I see" when they mean, "I understand"? It is like I can see now. A blind man who can see, Karen, is a rare thing.

Like you were.

And since we never know what is going to happen tomorrow, I wouldn't trade all my yesterdays for the time we had together.

Battling Jack's GYM

I miss you, Karen...

...and I will always love you.

KURTZ HATS

ONE FLIGHT UP

JB CLEANER

LOEB SALE 2001